



Pollution off the northwest coast of Spain, November 17, 2002, due to oil spilled from the Prestige tanker after suffering hull damage in rough seas. Two long divergent dark plumes appear in the wake of the crippled tanker (located at 42°45'N, 10°52'W), with some large polluted areas also prominently visible in the vicinity of the Galician coast. The vessel was being towed westwards away from the Spanish coasts, with continuous leakage of oil from the oil tanks. The Prestige sank in deep waters about 2 days later, spilling yet more oil during its descent. The term 'image intensity' here and on other images in this chapter is a dimensionless unit that corresponds to sea surface roughness, with high values signifying rougher seas. (Data from the SAR instrument on the ENVISAT satellite; copyright ESA 2002.)